Roller Historic District Roller

The small community of Roller on Grave Run Road is now part of the River Valley Ranch, a Christian fellowship, western theme summer camp. Two properties are the most significant, and their history is intertwined. These are the brick mill and the brick house. The brick house was part of a 390-acre farm assembled by Henry Zimmerman throughout the early nineteenth century and sold to John K. Zimmerman in 1841. Zimmerman probably also owned the mill property, although it is not clear whether a mill existed on the property at the time. The mill property was sold to Edman H. Weaver. The 1862 map shows a J.H. Weaver living in the area. It also shows a saw mill south of his house and a grist mill across the street in the vicinity of the existing mill. In 1865, Weaver sold the mill property to John A. Bahn. The following year, the tax assessments show Bahn owning a brick mill and frame house. That same year, John K. Zimmerman sold 216 acres to Henry L. Zimmerman. Henry L. held a brick house and barn. Most likely, then, John K. Zimmerman built the brick house between 1852 and 1865. In 1873, he sold the brick house and land to John A. Bahn. A note dated June 1876 records a new barn on Bahn's property. Bahn died around the new year, 1882. His will ordered that the farm be sold at public sale. The mill was sold to John D. Shearer in 1881 and the farm with the brick house to Charles Zeigler in 1886. Two years later, Zeigler bought the mill. At some point, the old machinery was removed from the mill and replaced with a new roller mill made by the Robinson Manufacturing Company of Muncy, Pennsylvania. The majority of Roller was purchased in 1952 by the Peter and John Radio Fellowship and is run as a Christian western summer camp. A number of western theme buildings have been added to the grounds. KS/lh:7/15/92:signif.16

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi	No.	
DOE	yes	no

1. Name (indica	te preferred name)			
historic Roller Historic D	District (preferred)			
and/or common River Valley				
2. Location				
street & number			not for publication	
city, town Roller	vicinity of	congressional district		
state Maryland	county	Carroll		
3. Classificatio	n			
Category Ownership X district public building(s) X private structure both site Public Acquisiti object in process being consid not_applic	_X_ yes: restricted ered yes: unrestricted	Present Use X agriculture commercial X educational X entertainment government industrial military	museum X park X private residence X religious Scientific transportation other:	
4. Owner of Pro	perty (give names a	nd mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)	
name Peter and John Ra	dio Fellowship, Inc.			
street & number P.O. Box 6239		telephone no.:		
city,town Baltimore	state	and zip code Maryl	and 21206-0239	
5. Location of L	egal Description	on		
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Courthouse Annex		liber 213	
street & number 55 North Cou	rt Street		folio 91	
city, town Westminster		state	Maryland	
6. Representati	ion in Existing	Historical Surv	eys	
title				
date		federal stat	e county loca	
≥pository for survey records				
city, town		state		

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-67

excellent deteriorated unaltered X original site good ruins altered moved date of move fair unexposed			_	
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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary: The community of Roller is located in a valley on both sides of Grave Run Road. It is approximately 1½ miles south of the Maryland-Pennsylvania line and just over ½ mile west of the Baltimore County-Carroll County line. The Muddy Creek passes along the eastern edge of the town and flows into the Gunpowder Falls, which cuts through the southern edge of town. There is a brick mill building located along the Falls. North of it are a number of western-style buildings constructed by River Valley Ranch. On the west side are two wood houses, a barn, and a large brick house. East of the brick house is another barn and several outbuildings.

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The mill is a two-story, three-bay by four-bay brick building on a rubble stone foundation. It is sited with its gable end facing west, toward Grave Run Road, and its south elevation facing the Gunpowder Falls. It is banked into the hill on the northwest with the south and east foundation walls exposed. The west elevation is of all-stretcher bond and the other elevations of 5-1 common bond. The building has 6/6 double-hung sash with wood sills in both stories. The window frames are mitered, with a beaded inside edge. The first story has splayed jack arches. The west elevation has a central entrance with six lights over three lying panels. The gable end is of wood clapboard, with a central, vertical board door flanked by a 6/3 sash on each side. In the peak is a projecting hood for a block and tackle hoist. A one-story porch has been added to this end. The north elevation has windows in all of the bays except the first-story east bay, which has a door and a new porch. The east elevation has a new addition that obscures the foundation. It is identical to the west elevation except that it also has a center entrance on the second story. The south elevation has a large single opening in the foundation, in the west bay, which was originally for water to flow in. It is now infilled with a door. According to Mrs. Bisset the "tub wheel" was just inside this opening. There are windows in all the bays of both stories of the south elevation, and a new porch has been added along here, as well. The interior was gutted of its mill machinery in the 1950's when River Valley Ranch converted it to a boarding house.

Period prehist 1400-1 1500-1 1700-1 1800-1 1900-	499 archeology-historic 599 _X agriculture 699 _X architecture 799 art		landscape architecture law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific da	ates	Builder/Architect		
A	Applicable Criteria:A and/or Applicable Exception: XA Level of Significance:	B <u></u>		

Survey No.

CARR-67

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The small community of Roller on Grave Run Road is now part of the River Valley Ranch, a Christian fellowship, western theme summer camp. Two properties are the most significant, and their history is intertwined. These are the brick mill and the brick house. The brick house was part of a 390-acre farm assembled by Henry Zimmerman throughout the early nineteenth century and sold to John K. Zimmerman in 1841. Zimmerman probably also owned the mill property, although it is not clear whether a mill existed on the property at the time. The mill property was sold to Edman H. Weaver. The 1862 map shows a J.H. Weaver living in the area. It also shows a saw mill south of his house and a grist mill across the street in the vicinity of the existing mill. In 1865, Weaver sold the mill property to John A. Bahn. The following year, the tax assessments show Bahn owning a brick mill and frame house. That same year, John K. Zimmerman sold 216 acres to Henry L. Zimmerman. Henry L. held a brick house and barn. Most likely, then, John K. Zimmerman built the brick house between 1852 and 1865. In 1873, he sold the brick house and land to John A. Bahn. A note dated June 1876 records a new barn on Bahn's property. Bahn died around the new year, 1882. His will ordered that the farm be sold at public sale. The mill was sold to John D. Shearer in 1881 and the farm with the brick house to Charles Zeigler in 1886. Two years later, Zeigler bought the mill. At some point, the old machinery was removed from the mill and replaced with a new roller mill made by the Robinson Manufacturing Company of Muncy, Pennsylvania. The majority of Roller was purchased in 1952 by the Peter and John Radio Fellowship and is run as a Christian western summer camp. A number of western theme buildings have been added to the grounds.

Historic Period Themes: Agriculture, Architecture, Economic

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Significance

Chronological/Development Periods: Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870;

Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Resource Types: Small Family farms, Rural Vernacular, Mills

Major Bibliographical References Survey No. CARR-67 Carroll County Land Records Tax assessments - 1841, 1852, 1866, 1866-76, 1876-96, 1896-1910 1862 & 1877 maps John A. Bahn will - JOW 5-211 & inventory - JOW12-34 Interview with Mrs **Geographical Data** 10. Acreage of nominated property ____289_83 acres Quadrangle name Lineboro Quadrangle scale <u>1:24000</u> UTM References do NOT complete UTM references Zone Northing 7one Verbal boundary description and justification List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries state code county code state code county code 11. Form Prepared By Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner organization Carroll County Department of Planning date July 15, 1992 street & number 225 North Center Street telephone (410) 857-2145 city or town Westminster state Maryland The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement. The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2020

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

The brick house is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay banked structure with a gable roof and a central passage. It is banked on the west side, with the east facade facing the road. It is built of 5-1 common bond brick. The windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with wood sills and wood lintels with corner blocks. The cellar has panelled shutters and the other stories blinds. The cellar entrance is placed north of center and has a six-panel wood door and seven-light transom. The first-story door is the same, but is centered. There is a raised porch on the first story, supported by six chamfered posts with horizontal railings at the cellar level. The first story also has six chamfered posts, with balustrades of square-in-plan vertical balusters above a large, lying panel in each bay. There is an internal brick chimney on each end. There is evidence that the building was painted red and striped. The rear elevation is only three bays, with the window on each end centered between the two on the front.

The plan of the house has a central passage with a single-run, open-stringer stair on the north wall and a door at either end. The entrance to the house is at the cellar, there being no stairs to the front porch. The north half of the house is one large room with a fireplace east of center. There is no clear evidence whether this room was ever divided into two. The south half is divided into two, a large room on the east with a fireplace in the west corner of the south wall, and a small unheated room on the west that has been altered.

Northeast of the house, on the east side of Grave Run Road, is a frame banked barn. It has a rubble stone foundation, beaded-edge-and-center vertical board siding, and a corrugated metal gable roof. It is banked on the west side, with the ramp close to the road. The upper story of the west elevation has three pair of wood louvered vents, each above a 4/2 sash. Between each pair of vents is a pair of large doors on rollers, with siding that matches the barn. The north and south elevations are identical, with two rows of four vents in the upper story and a 1/1 sash flanked by a wood vent and topped with a gable, in the gable end. The lower story originally had two pair of wood louvers, but they have been altered. The east elevation of the lower story was not accessible. The upper story on the east has two vents on each end, four in the center, and a pair of small doors above a pair of larger doors on either side of the four center vents. The upper story has two threshing floors, with a hay mow between and another on each end. There is a storage room in the southwest corner and a granary in the northwest corner. There are six queen-post-truss bents. The rafters are sawn and are approximately 2"x 4".

Just north of the barn is a single corn crib with German siding, a gable roof, and a vertical board door on the west end. South of the barn is a banked wagon shed or shop

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 3

building. It is of frame covered with beaded-edge-and-center vertical board siding and has a gable roof with corrugated metal covering. The shed is three bays by four bays, with the gable end facing west toward the road. The west elevation has a center door on rollers flanked by 6/6 sash. Above it is a pair of doors on rollers flanked by 6/6 sash. The north and south elevations of the upper story have 4/2 sash, while the lower story has the same identical board siding.

On the west side of Grave Run Road, opposite the mill, is a two-story wood house built in several sections. The eastern section is a two-story, two-bay by two-bay gable roof structure with an overhanging second story on the south elevation supported in part by three chamfered posts. The east end of the structure has a one-story porch with four chamfered posts. The west end is banked into the hill, with the cellar exposed on the other three elevations and covered by lattice on the east and south. The foundation is of rubble stone. The first story is stuccoed and the second has German siding. There are 1/1 windows and a boxed cornice with returns. There is a two-story, one-bay addition on the west end of this structure, with the gable end facing south. It is also of German siding on a rubble stone foundation with 1/1 sash. On the west end of this ell a narrow, two-story, shed-roofed addition has been placed. It, too, is covered in German siding. The peak of the shed roof meets the peak of the addition, thus covering the western slope of the addition and changing the pitch of that slope. There are two entrances into the house on the south at the first story. One is in the west bay of the east section and the other is in the east elevation of the addition, under the overhang of the eastern section of the house. According to Mrs. Bisset, part of this house is log.

North of this house is a barn and house. The house is a 1½-story, three-bay by two-bay gable-roofed structure. It is banked on the west, with a stone foundation, but a wood frame exposed foundation wall on the east. It has aluminum siding and replacement windows. The first story has a vertical board door set off center. The cellar door is centered, and is of beaded-edge diagonal boards. The attic is raised to create a usable story there, but is not full height. The house also has a raised porch on the first story, with square wood posts. According to Mrs. Bisset, the house is a log structure.

The banked barn is to the south of the house. It is banked on the west side, with the forebay facing east toward the road. It has a rubble stone foundation with a horizontal board wall on the east elevation of the lower story. This elevation has five vertical board dutch doors. The upper story has vertical board siding with only a pair of doors in the center of the east elevation. The gable roof has corrugated metal. On the south end of the barn is a corn crib virtually identical to the other in Roller, but with the

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 4

door on the east end. An original stone barnyard wall survives on the east side of the barnyard, right along the road.

North of the mill is the Post Office and store. It has been covered by later additions made by River Valley Ranch, but appears to have been a two-story, three-bay by one-bay structure with German siding, 6/6 sash, and a standing seam gable roof. It has an interior brick chimney. Part of the addition on the west elevation is historical and was originally part of the store. East, west, and north of the Post Office are the recent, western-style buildings of River Valley Ranch.

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Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 2

The small community of Roller on Grave Run Road is now part of the River Valley Ranch, a Christian fellowship, western theme summer camp. Because several properties have been consolidated into one, it is difficult to determine the history of the community. Two properties are the most significant, and their history is intertwined. These are the brick mill and the brick house. The brick house was part of a 390-acre farm assembled by Henry Zimmerman throughout the early nineteenth century and sold to John K. Zimmerman for \$3000.00 in 1841, after Henry's death. At this time, the house on the property was wood. In 1852, there was no house listed on the property, which was probably just an oversight, since John K. was obviously a successful farmer with livestock worth \$442.00. Zimmerman probably also owned the mill property, although it is not clear whether a mill existed on the property at the time. The tax assessments do not mention it under John K.'s name. The mill property went through a Circuit Court case in the 1850's and was ordered to be sold. Joel K. Bollinger owned it for several years, then sold it to Edman H. Weaver. The 1862 map shows a J.H. Weaver living in the area of the log house. It also shows a saw mill south of his house in the area of the log and frame house, and a grist mill across the street in the vicinity of the existing mill.

In 1865, Weaver sold the mill property, 71 acres, to John A. Bahn for \$6900.00. The following year, the tax assessments show Bahn owning a brick mill and frame house with livestock worth \$329.00. That same year, John K. Zimmerman sold 216 acres to Henry L. Zimmerman for \$6500.00. Henry L. held a brick house and barn, according to the tax list, with \$258.00 worth of furniture in the house and \$574.00 worth of livestock in the barn. Most likely, then, John K. built the brick house between 1852 and 1865. For an unknown reason, Henry L. did not retain the property very long. In 1873, he sold the brick house and land to John A. Bahn for \$8000.00. Presumably when Bahn moved to the brick house, the other house became a tenant property. Something must have happened to the barn that the Zimmerman's had built, because a note dated June 1876 records a new barn on Bahn's property, worth \$800.00. This must have been a major structure to be valued that high. In 1879, it was noted that additional improvements worth \$400.00 were made. The 1877 map shows two residences between the saw mill and Bahn's brick house, but does not give the names of the occupants. Most likely, these were tenant houses owned by Bahn. Bahn was obviously a very successful man, but fate was not to be kind to him. The 1880 census noted that he was a 44-yearold miller and farmer, and also noted that he had a "disability-affection [sic] of the lungs". He died around the new year, 1882. His will ordered that the farm be sold at public sale and his wife and two children split the proceeds evenly. His wife was to take as much of the household furniture, kitchen utensils, and hogs as she wanted, and \$1000.00 was to be set aside for his children's education.

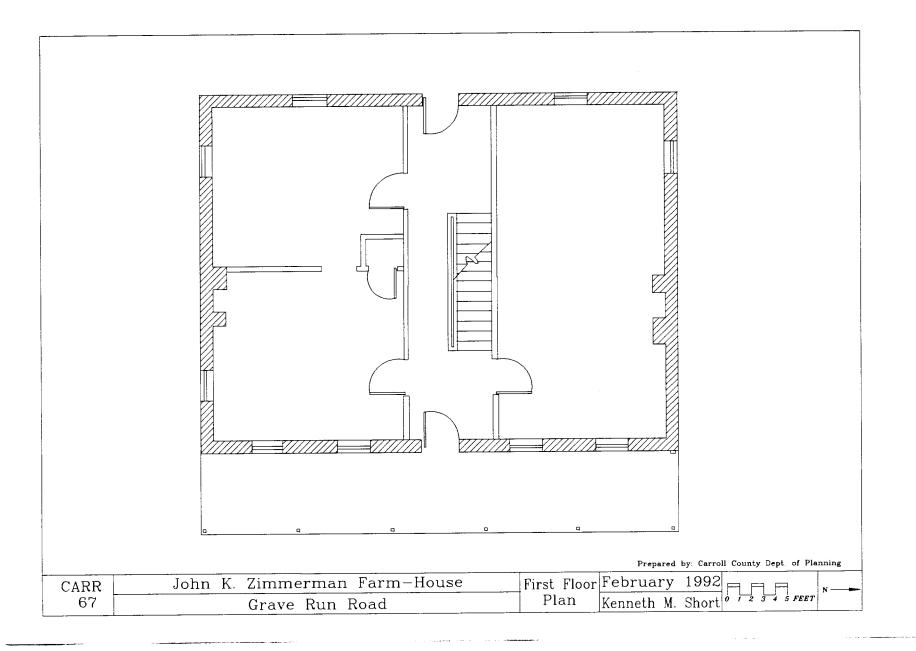
Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 3

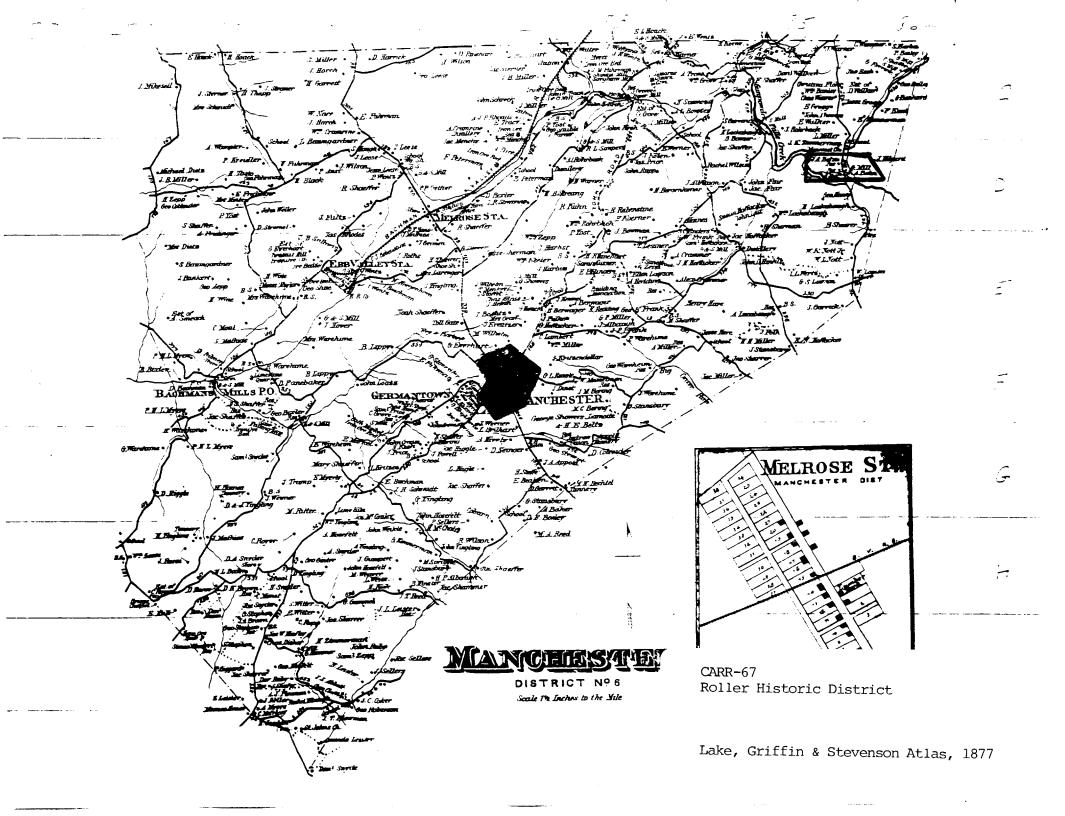
Emeline Bahn took three beds, a trundle bed, six cane back chairs, other chairs, a chest, two bureaus and stands, two looking glasses, a sideboard, table, clock, sewing machine, coal stove, a bench, a cupboard, three carpets, a sink, kitchen utensils, tubs and kegs, an iron kettle, a washing machine, a Carroll County Atlas, corn hoes, a hammer, saw, and a fat press. This must have been her idea of what was necessary to run a house with two children. The remainder of John Bahn's estate included the usual items found in the inventories of farmers. The mill was sold to John D. Shearer in 1881 and the farm with the brick house to Charles Zeigler in 1886. Two years later, Zeigler bought the mill, which he sold in 1908. At some point, the old machinery was removed from the mill and replaced with a new roller mill made by the Robinson Manufacturing company of Muncy, Pennsylvania. A schematic of the machinery operation survives.

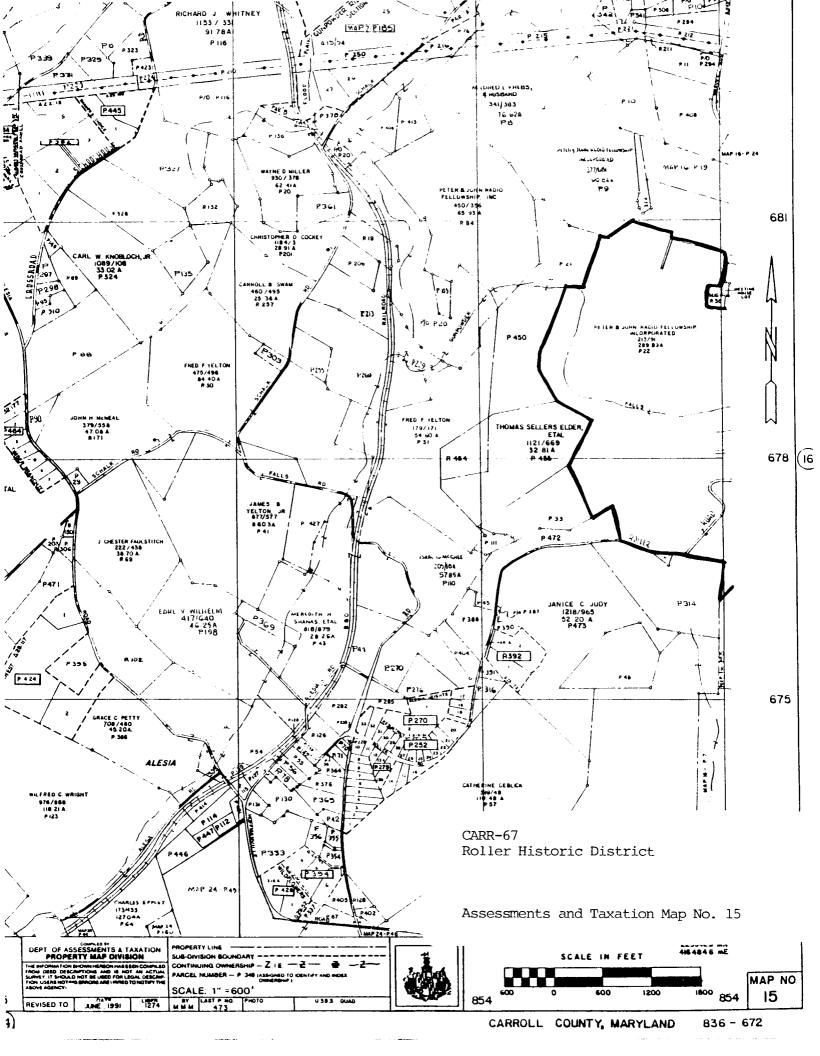
Sometime after the early 1880's, when the Western Maryland Railway opened its Harrisburg district line through Millers, Alesia, and Lineboro, a branch was opened from north of Alesia, through Roller and to Hoffmanville in Baltimore County. Since there was, from local reports, a stop in Roller, this must have been an important place of business. The tracks were apparently taken up when the Prettyboy Dam was built for the reservoir. There was also a post office in Roller. The building survives beneath later alterations by River Valley Ranch, just north of the mill. According to Mrs. Bisset, Roller acquired its name from the mill, after the building was converted to a roller mill. The majority of roller was purchased in 1952 by the Peter and John Radio Fellowship and is run as a Christian, western theme summer camp. A number of western theme buildings have been added to the grounds, and several old buildings have been altered, as well.

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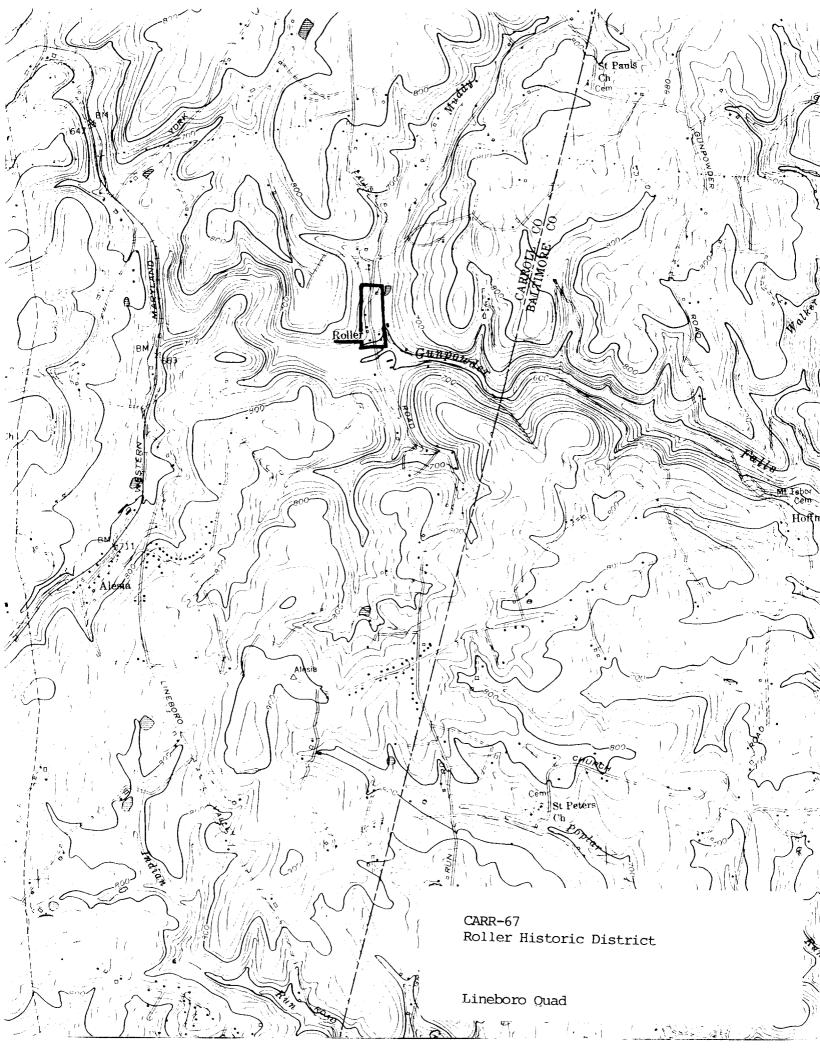






BALTIMORE COUNTY MAP NO. 5

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